

Application No. 10/803,647

Filed: March 18, 2004

TC Art Unit: 1743

Confirmation No.: 5353

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A device for storing and/or treating chemicals, comprising:

a casing in the form of a sampling tube having two open ends,
the sampling tube defining ~~which is made of glass and is provided~~
~~with a~~ receiving cavity for storing chemicals therein, the
receiving cavity accommodating an absorption material,

wherein the sampling tube is provided with ~~and further~~
~~comprising a~~ transponder including a memory, the transponder being
arranged in the ~~device~~ sampling tube such that it cannot be
affected by the chemicals.

2. (original) A device according to claim 1,

characterized in that the transponder is melted-in in a
closed glass housing which constitutes an inseparable part of the
device.

3. (original) A device according to claim 1 characterized in
that the transponder comprises an antenna.

4. (original) A device according to claim 3,

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characterized in that the antenna is provided on the glass casing by a vapor deposition technique.

5. (original) A device according to claim 4,
characterized in that the vapor-deposited antenna is designed as a layer of metal ions vapor-deposited in a spiral path.

6. (original) A device according to claim 3,
characterized in that the antenna is designed as a coil-shaped element accommodated in the glass housing.

7. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The device according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that it is a sampling tube, the casing being designed as a tube with two open ends, the receiving cavity accommodating an absorption material, and~~ wherein the transponder ~~being~~ is embedded in the absorption material.

8. (canceled)

9. (original) A device according to claim 1,
characterized in that it is an HPLC column (high performance liquid chromatography column), the HPLC column comprising a glass

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casing which is at least partly filled with separation material and comprises two coupling elements at the ends.

10. (original) A device according to claim 9,

characterized in that the transponder in the glass housing is embedded in the separation material.

11-12. (canceled)

13. (original) A device according to claim 1,

characterized in that the memory of the transponder is programmable.

14. (original) A device according to claim 13,

characterized in that the memory of the transponder contains a non-erasable identification number.

15. (new) The device according to claim 1 wherein the sampling tube is received in a package which is made of glass and filled with inert gas, the package having closed ends.